

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraphs [0001], [0057], [0058], [0083], and [0084], with the following rewritten paragraphs:

[0001] This application is a Continuation application claiming 35 U.S.C. § 120 priority from prior U.S. Patent Application No. 09/680,142, now U.S. Pat. No. 6,651,117, filed October 3, 2000, entitled “NETWORK STACK LAYER INTERFACE,” and is herein incorporated by reference. The parent application claimed priority of prior provisional applications (1) U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/163,266, filed November 3, 1999, entitled “SCSI OVER ETHERNET,” (2) U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/189,639, filed March 14, 2000, entitled “ETHERNET STORAGE PROTOCOLS FOR COMPUTER NETWORKS,” and (3) U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/201,626, filed May 3, 2000, entitled “SCSI ENCAPSULATION PROTOCOL,” which are also hereby incorporated by reference.

[0057] For example, an Ethernet network is limited to sending data packets having a size of about 1.44K or less. Thus, to send the 4K buffer data 132 over an Ethernet network, the STP would divide the 4K buffer into three data ~~ehuek~~ chunks: first data chunk 148, second data chunk 150, and third data chunk 152.

[0058] Thus, the STP modifies the second STREAM buffer descriptor 138 to create a third NIC buffer descriptor 146, resulting in a modified version of the 4K buffer pointers 133, and 138. The modification includes assigning the memory address portion of the STREAM buffer descriptor 138 to the third NIC buffer descriptor 146. In addition, the STP sets the buffer length of the third NIC buffer descriptor 146 to the size of the data chunks that the 4K buffer was divided into, in the

present example the buffer length of the third buffer descriptor 146 would be set at about 1.44K.

Thus the third NIC buffer descriptor of the main NIC SID 126 includes the starting memory address of the 4K buffer 132, which is also the starting address of the first data ehuek chunk 148. In addition, the third NIC buffer descriptor 146 of the main NIC SID 126 includes a buffer length equal to the size of data chunk 148.

[0083] For example, an Ethernet network is limited to sending data packets having a size of about 1.44K or less. Thus, to send a 4K buffer data over an Ethernet network, the STP would divide the 4K buffer into three ehuek chunks, a first data chunk of about 1.44K, a second data chunk of about 1.44K, and a third data chunk of about 1.12K.

[0084] Thus, the STP modifies the second STREAM buffer descriptor to create a third NIC buffer descriptor. The modification includes assigning the memory address portion of the STREAM buffer descriptor to the third NIC buffer descriptor. In addition, the STP sets the buffer length of the third NIC buffer descriptor at the size of the data chunks that the data buffer was divided into if the data buffer was too large to transfer in a single data packet. For example the buffer length of the third buffer descriptor would be set at about 1.44K if a 4K buffer was being sent over an Ethernet network. Thus the third NIC buffer descriptor of the main NIC SID includes the starting memory address of the data buffer, which is also the starting address of the first data ehuek chunk. In addition, the third NIC buffer descriptor of the main NIC SID includes a buffer length equal to the size of data chunk, or the size of the entire data buffer if it is small enough to transmit over the network in a single data packet.